

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/680,910

Examiner

Kevin Mew

Applicant(s)

GRABELSKY ET AL.

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/2/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-42, which are now renumbered as 1-15, respectively.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Amendment

1. Acknowledgement is made of the Arguments/Remarks received on 11/2/2004.

Claim Objections

2. Acknowledgement is made of the amended claims 29, 33, 40 received on 11/2/2004, which has corrected the deficiency mentioned in the previous Office Action. The claim objections to claims 29, 33, 40 have been withdrawn.

Double Patenting

3. Acknowledgement is made of the terminal disclaimer filed on 11/2/2004 regarding the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection as mentioned in the previous Office Action. The double patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application relates to a method in a network system of providing multiple priority classes with a medium-control-layer protocol connecting stations to a transmission medium, including the unique method steps of "receiving on the first station with the medium access control protocol a combined contention-signal including a plurality of priority class intent-to-transmit signals, wherein the combined contention signal is a superposition of a plurality of priority class intent-to-transmit-signals from others stations in the network system; decoding a plurality of priority class intent-to-transmit-signal frequencies from the combined-contention-signal; determining whether the first station has selected the highest signal frequency for the desired priority class from the plurality of priority class signal frequencies in the combined-contention-signal and if so, transmitting data from the first station to the transmission medium as data for the desired priority class." The closet prior art, Chao et al. (USP 5,050,164), discloses a customer premises network in which a protocol is executed by the media access controller in each terminal adapter and by the media access controller of the optical network interface, which serves to resolve contention among different priority classes among the customer premise equipments for access to the cells of the OC-3 signal." However, Chao fails to anticipate or render obvious the above quoted limitations. This renders it allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



WELLINGTON CHIN
PERMISSORY PATENT EXAMINER

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